



1950s

LAVENDER SCARE
The increased visibility of gay and lesbian communities along with a heightened fear of communism brought about the greatest crackdown on lesbian and gay people in United States history. The LGBT community was banned from working for the federal government or any of its private contractors.

1951 - Harry Hay led the foundation of the **Mattachine Society** in Los Angeles.

1952 - The **American Psychiatric Association** classified homosexuality as a mental disorder in its **Diagnostic and Statistical Manual**.

1952 - Several Mattachine members gathered to form **ONE Inc** and publish **ONE Magazine** in 1953.

1955 - In San Francisco, Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon led a group to found **Daughters of Bilitis**.

Perpetrators of violence against gay and lesbian people could claim a **"gay panic defense"** which justified any action, including murder, in the name of protecting oneself against a same-sex advance.

MILESTONES IN THE AMERICAN LGBT CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

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1960s

POLICE RAIDS
State liquor authorities regularly revoked the licenses of bars that served homosexuals and police enforced the regulation by raiding gay and lesbian bars. Police would harass the patrons, arrest a selection of them, and close down the bars. Arrestees had little choice but to quietly pay their fines, rather than to contest their arrest and have their sexual orientation publicly exposed. Since bars were the primary public places where gay and lesbian people congregated, the raids created an atmosphere of fear that permeated all gay and lesbian gatherings.

1965 - Dewey's Restaurant sip-in (Philadelphia).
1966 - Compton's Cafeteria riots (San Francisco).
1967 - Mattachine Society sip-in (New York) and the Black Cat protest (L-A)

1969 - STONEWALL RIOTS
Around 2AM on June 28, patrons of the Stonewall Inn, a popular gay bar in New York, resisted a police raid. Police reacted in violence and protesters responded equally. The riots continued from Saturday until Wednesday, with hundreds of people joining in on the fight. A crucial event in LGBTQ history, the Stonewall Riots would come to symbolize the beginning of a national gay liberation movement.

A month after the riots, New York LGBT activists formed the **Gay Liberation Front (GLF)**. GLF capitalized on a newly energized community to introduce a radical activism into the gay movement.

BAYARD RUSTIN
He schooled Martin Luther King Jr. about Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolence and together they formed the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC). In 1963, he conceived and organized the March on Washington, site of King's "I have a dream" speech. After being forced out of SCLC because of his sexuality and communist past, Rustin continued to advocate a protest agenda informed by a belief that "economic inequality is the graveyard of democracy."

1970s

BIRTH OF TRANSGENDER MOVEMENT
Transgender activists Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson broke from New York's Gay Activists Alliance to start the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR). STAR advocated for transgender rights and opened STAR House to provide shelter for transgender youth at risk. In Los Angeles, Angela Douglas founded the Transsexual/Transvestite Action Organization (TAO). TAO opened chapters across the United States and published the national magazine *Mirage* to advocate for transgender rights. Although these organizations folded and small community groups persisted, discrimination against transgender people would keep transgender men and women from broader mobilization until the early 1990s.

1970 - Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, and New York City staged the nation's **first gay pride parades**.

1972 - Jeanne Manford created the group that was to become known as **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays**.

1973 - The combination of protests with behind-the-scenes negotiations culminated in the landmark **removal of homosexuality from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders**.

1978 - HARVEY MILK'S ASSASSINATION
On November 27, former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White shot Milk and Mayor George Moscone in their offices. In what became known as the "Twinkie defense," White's defense attorneys convinced jurors that White had not been in a rational state of mind due to eating too much junk food. The gay community was outraged over the sentence, and the largest LGBT riot ever recorded broke out on the streets of San Francisco known as the White Night Riots.

1979 - A massive **March on Washington** celebrated the gay and lesbian movement's significant achievements in local communities and the promise of a growing coalition at the national level.

